

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

*Chairman:*

Mr John Priest  
Farmhouse  
Reawick  
Shetland  
ZE2 9NJ  
Tel: 01595 860274  
e-mail: [priestjt@aol.com](mailto:priestjt@aol.com)

*Clerk:*

Mrs L Fraser  
West Burrafirth  
Walls  
Shetland  
ZE2 9NT  
Tel: Walls 01595 809203  
e-mail: [clerk.sandacc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.sandacc@gmail.com)

Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 128 625 1698

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell	Ms D Nicolson
	G Morrison	M Bennett	
	J D Garrick	Mrs J Fraser	
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr S Coutts	Cllr T Smith
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk		

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and did a roll call.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.

**MINUTES & HEADLINES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr G Morrison, seconded by Mrs J Fraser.

**BUSINESS ARISING: Police:** The Police representative was unable to attend the meeting. No one had any item they wished to bring to their attention.

**Coronavirus:** The vaccine roll out is progressing well.

**Broadband:** Cllr C Hughson had received a reply from Mr Neil Grant saying that he is not aware of any updates regarding broadband but will let her know if they receive anything.

**Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse:** Cllr C Hughson had contacted Mr N Hutcheson asking for an update on this project. Mr N Hutcheson had replied saying they are currently waiting on British Telecom for the return of their detailed design for the works required to their underground plant at the Garderhouse improvements. BT are aware that there is some urgency to get this scheme started. All of the roads design drawings are complete, as is the Bill of Quantities. The Design Section estimates the end of July for submission of the tender. The Chairman was surprised that there is a hold up with BT as last year BT ran ducting for their fibre optic cable clear of the road in preparation for this work.

Cllr C Hughson agreed to get a contact for BT from the SIC Development Services Dept and she will enquire about this area.

This project was also discussed at the Association meeting – see report below.

**Roads Reports:** Roads Reports have been received and circulated to the members.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: No further information about this provision. A message will be sent enquiring when it is planned to have the temporary speed limit in place.

**Viking Energy Wind Farm:** An email was received from Ms Sharon Powell, Community Liaison Manager, SSEN Transmission introducing herself and offering to attend a meeting. However, as this work does not take place in our Community Council area, none of the members felt that it would be necessary to take part.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF):** Mrs S Deyell had received publicity information from

Ms Eleanor Gear, SCBF Admin Officer, and will include it on the Community Council Facebook page. It is hoped that this will encourage groups to apply for funds.

An email was received from Ms E Gear, Administration Officer to Shetland Community Benefit Fund, saying that it has been decided that, for the lifetime of the Advance Grant Scheme (AGS), Community Councils will receive the same allocation as they have for this year. Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale, Nesting & Lunnasting, Sandstind & Aithsting and Delting will each receive £50,000 and all other Community Councils will receive £10,000.

**Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund:** The Clerk gave a report on the progress with the virtual event which is being held. The flyer has been circulated to the public and the voting paper and information on the groups is being prepared. A further WebEx meeting of the 'Invest in the West' group is planned for Thursday 17 June.

**Community Development Fund – Distribution 21/22:** The CDF application had been granted and the finance has now been received.

**Community Development Fund – Project:** No suggestions for a project has been received.

**New Grant form:** An email was received from Mr M Duncan saying that in line with the ASCC recommendation at its March meeting and in order to ensure Community Councils comply with FPP requirements and GDPR legislation, he confirms that all Community Councils must use the approved Community Council grant application form with effect from 1 April 2021. This has been confirmed by colleagues in the Council's Corporate Services Dept.

Concern was again expressed about the complexity of the new grant form. It was agreed at our April meeting that the form was too complicated for the small amounts of money that the Community Council disburse to the groups in our area. The Chairman had raised this at the Association meeting saying that this Community Council feels that the form is over complicated and it also makes the members feel undervalued. The Chair of the Association said he was not aware that the forms were mandatory but thought they were there for consistency. Mr M Duncan explained that only one comment had come from Community Councils by the end of March and it had been looked at. He then took advice internally about having different versions of the form and because the Council is moving closer to monitoring 'Following the public pound' and to comply with GDPR (Data Protection) it would be more difficult for the Council if there are different templates so it has been decided that the new form is to be used for this year and they will review it before the end of the financial year to see what changes are required to it. There is support from his Department if people find the form difficult to complete. He said that all decisions will still remain with the Community Councils. The Assoc Chairman had offered to place this on the agenda of the next Association meeting and that was agreed. Although we are aware that at least two other Community Council are not happy with the form, our Chairman did not get any support as neither of them were present at the meeting.

The members still feel that the form is too complicated and that it will discourage small groups from applying. At present we 'Follow the public pound' and are willing to comply with GDPR. It was agreed that the present form will be refreshed and circulated for discussion at our next meeting.

**Funding:** Various information received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

**Association:** The Chairman had attended the Association meeting where Mr N Hutcheson from the Roads Dept had given a presentation. The Chairman reported that he had been surprised, when he asked Mr N Hutcheson about a start date for the road at Garderhouse, he was informed that the roadworks are out to tender at the moment and that surfacing is programmed for October which will be followed by the barriers to be carried out by Garriock Bros. It all hinges on the earthworks being done and, due to so many contractors being involved in the Viking Energy project, he did not know whether anyone would manage to take it on. As this project has been planned for some time, the Chairman felt that it is strange that some works, e.g. moving fences, etc could not have been done by this time.

The next Association meeting will be held on 14 September.

**Clousta and Culswick phone boxes:** No further details of how these items are progressing. The Chairman had received an enquiry about whether the Community Council could act as caretaker for a project. It was agreed that a reply should be sent advising her to try to find a group within the area who are willing to take on the box.

**Orion Project:** Recently there had been a press release regarding some engineering being carried out west of Shetland which is a very hostile environment.

**Temporary Change in Planning:** An update was received saying temporary changes have been extended to 28 June. It is caused by staffing problems which it is hoped will be sorted soon.

**Children at Play signs:** The signs had been had been made by ArtMachine, paid for and then collected by Mr I Anderson. Mr G Morrison reported that some of them are already erected. He agreed to check and let us know when they are all in place.

**Scambuster Session:** Mrs Sarah Johnston agreed to come along once we start to have face to face meetings.

**Request for Comprehensive Toilet Information:** The information regarding the Skeld toilets has already been forwarded to Ms Osla Jamwal-Fraser. The Clerk has not yet managed to get the information about the Aith toilets from Mr A Johnston.

**Meetings in Future:** Some of the members do not yet feel confident about having face to face meetings. It is hoped that this can happen later in the year.

**Gravestones:** The Chairman thanked Cllr C Hughson for getting information about the gravestones from Mr C Symons, Executive Manager – Environment & Estate Operations. In it he says that they have not yet given the team the go-ahead to prioritise re-fixing of memorials due to staff shortages over the winter. They are also into the busy grass cutting season and still do not have a full complement of gravediggers. However, they have been inducting an apprentice and 2 season grass cutters recently. They will endeavour to get back to the memorial re-fixing after the grass cutting season ends but when it does it will not be at any great pace due to the need to fit in adhoc funerals and general maintenance, along with an eye on staffing levels and ongoing restrictions.

**PLANNING APPLICATION:** The following planning application was considered and no objections were raised.

2021/013/MAR Modification of an existing salmon farm by altering mooring containment area, changing production equipment to twelve 2120m –circumference cages, increasing grid size and changing the existing feed barge position at Easter Score Holm, Scalloway by Greig Seafood Shetland Ltd.

**CC TRAINING AND SUPPORT NEEDS:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan with a questionnaire attached asking the members what training needs they have. They must inform the Clerk who will then collate the replies and send the details to Mr Duncan as it is hoped to arrange training later in the year.

He also says that Community Planning & Development intend to hold another Clerks training workshop, maybe in late September. He asks for our training needs by the same deadline and enquires about what time of day would be suitable.

**UNADOPTED ROADS:** It was agreed to invite applications for material for the upkeep of unadopted and peat roads. Applications should be received by 9 July and applications received after that date will only be considered if sufficient funds remain.

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS – ROUND 2:** An email was received giving details of the Community Conversations – Round 2 which is to take place in this area on 19 August.

**UNDER 22s FREE BUS TRAVEL:** Details of Free Bus Travel for Young People aged under 22 – Island Communities Impact Assessment was received from Transport Scotland asking for views and saying the evidence gathering exercise will run from Monday 24 May to Monday 21 June.

**VAS:** The AGM of Voluntary Action Shetland was held on 9 June. Copies of the agenda, etc and the Annual Review 2020-2021 were received and noted.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm